

MAR 7 1961

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Powers Hoped to Be Freed

NORTON, Va., March 7 — The father of U2 pilot Francis Powers revealed today that his son expected to be released from his Russian prison along with the two RB47 fliers and that his morale slumped sharply when he learned he was not coming home.

Oliver Powers said he and his wife receive letters from their son about every two weeks, generally reflecting a cheerful attitude.

But the most recent letter showed a big drop in morale, Mr. Powers said.

Mr. Powers said that his son was not putting the blame on his 10-year spy sentence when Capt. Freeman Olmstead and John McKone won their freedom last month.

Mr. Powrs said that his son was not putting the blame on anyone for his failure to get freedom right away.

"Don't get me wrong," the elder Powers said. "I've never heard Francis express any bitterness toward America about the fix he's in. He has accepted it much better than the rest of us."



FRANCIS POWERS

The best of the comic panels appear daily in The News.

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